

Student Posters

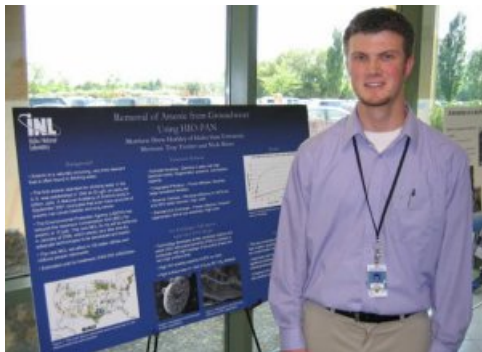
- [PowerPoint Slide Show](#) - 1.1MB PPS file

A summer of success

Student interns wow the lab at Scientific Summary Poster Presentation

Contributed by Jeff Benson and John Howze

By any measure, this year's Idaho National Laboratory Scientific Summary Poster Presentation - held Aug. 2 at the INL's Engineering Research Office Building -- was a hit. Hundreds of employees took the time to view the posters summarizing the research contributions of more than 200 summer student interns at INL.



Student Matthew Horkley was involved on a project to improve the removal of arsenic from water.

They also took time to interact with the interns, who were there to explain in detail what they accomplished this year. Students had the opportunity to talk about their research projects/education experiences, answer questions and exchange ideas with colleagues during their presentations.

This year's group of talented interns accomplished a lot.

Christie Larsen, BYU-Idaho student, studied coal gasification and the role that coal-rich Wyoming might play. Mentor Richard Boardman was focused and challenged her to thoroughly investigate her subject, she said.

"Wyoming, with its vast coal reserves and strong mining industry, is going to be a significant player in the nation's energy future," Larsen said. "We looked closely at the economics of coal gasification, which gets energy from coal twice, and is much more efficient. It's expensive technology up front, but then it is very efficient energy production for a long time."

Matthew Horkley partnered with INL's Troy Tranter and Nick Mann on an improved method of removing arsenic from water. It's among the nation's leading environmental concerns at the moment -- and Horkley was excited.

"This technology is needed," he said. "It was really exciting to meet and partner with someone who develops technology. I learned a lot. It gives me a really good idea of career opportunities."

Educational Programs sponsors the Scientific Summary Poster Presentation and is the INL's strategic arm for this outreach to tomorrow's scientists, engineers and educators. Providing the students with internship opportunities is a perfect fit with the strong emphasis that INL places on improving science education across Idaho and the nation.

"I congratulate each and every one on their successful internship," said INL Laboratory Director John Grossenbacher. "The application of scientific knowledge is the basis for our nation's economy, prosperity and future success. Our role in mentoring is important, but their role as America's future leaders in science, engineering and education will be even more so."

Fellowships and internships like these are very important to the Laboratory, the students and their home institutions," said Andy Klein, director of Education, Training and Research Partnerships for INL. "The Lab gains from the energy and talents that these students bring to our research activities and these types of opportunities help build the pipeline of people that the Lab and industry both need."

"Students obviously gain by learning new skills and by being engaged in a workplace environment," Klein added. "From my previous role in academia, I can attest that the universities gain by the knowledge and excitement that students bring back to campus and share with faculty and other students."

Speaking to a crowded room of students following the event, Leonard Bond, director of the Center for Advanced Energy Studies at INL, encouraged them to press on with their studies - and keep INL in mind when their schooling is complete.

"You are reaching for the stars," he said. "I encourage you to complete your studies. And when you have done so, we hope you apply to work for INL. We're going to need the very best. From today's presentation, we can see that you are."

General Contact:

Communications,



Jena Davis created a lesson plan for the classroom using research on glaciers now being done at INL.

